



## **GOLDERS GREEN CREMATORIUM**

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### **BRIEF HISTORY OF GOLDERS GREEN CREMATORIUM**

In the year 1900, the constantly increasing number of cremations at the pioneer crematorium established in Woking in 1885 convinced the Council of the Cremation Society of England that the time had come to establish a crematorium, within easy distance of central London, to meet the needs of the metropolis. The London Cremation Company was accordingly formed by members of the Council and their friends and, in the year 1902, the Golders Green Crematorium was opened to the public by the late Sir Henry Thompson, President and Founder of the Cremation Society of England.

So, in November 1902, began the life story of what is now recognised as the world's foremost crematorium. Well-known personalities from all walks of life - peers, Prime Ministers, Bishops, personalities in the realms of art, science, medicine, music, literature, entertainment, public services have been cremated at Golders Green.

Since November 1902, over 319,838 cremations have been carried out at Golders Green Crematorium, an achievement which surely would please and satisfy Sir Henry Thompson and the early advocates of cremation. The number of cremations carried out is far more than at any other crematorium in the United Kingdom.

We are proud to think that Golders Green Crematorium has played an important part in the history of cremation and has helped to set standards which prevail today. At Golders Green, the cremation service can be as simple or elaborate as the relatives wish, but whether it is held in the largest chapel or the smallest, whether the mourners number 100 or ten, we do all that is possible to ensure that the service is conducted, from beginning to end, with the dignity and reverence which such an occasion deserves. After the cremation, relatives are at liberty to visit the crematorium at any time and to call on the services of the staff whenever required.

The land on which Golders Green Crematorium stands was purchased for £6,000, and Sir Ernest George and his partner Alfred Yeates were employed to design the buildings. Sir Ernest George was the architect of several neo-Georgian country houses and Claridges Hotel, but his crematorium design is very different. He envisaged a range of red brick buildings in Lombardic style linked by a 240-foot long cloister. In fact, construction was piecemeal as money became available. Among the earliest buildings was the spacious and dignified West Chapel which has seating for 200 people. It contains a fine bust of Sir Henry Thompson, who died in 1904, and a plaque to the Maharajah of Cooch Behar and his family.

Another early building was the Ernest George Columbarium, which runs parallel to the cloisters, with a pavilion tower at each end. A central apse is decorated with a brilliantly coloured mosaic and along the walls are spaces for 1,700 urns and caskets.



In 1911, the large columbarium was built on five levels, with small niches masking every wall filled with an urn or casket. The Duke of Bedford's Chapel, which can seat 25 people, was built in the same year. The ninth Duke of Bedford had helped finance Woking Crematorium in Surrey and built a small cremator there, which was used for his own cremation in 1891. The eleventh Duke had the cremator conveyed to Golders Green and built in the Bedford Chapel. His interest in cremation was such that, in 1934, he became president of the Cremation Society.

The cloister was completed in 1914, the smaller columbarium in 1916, the East Chapel with seating for 50 in 1938 and the Chapel of Memory in 1939. Other buildings have been added more recently, one of these being a shrine built in 1959, which has glass doors bearing an engraved Star of David. This shrine was built when the need was seen for a place to be set apart for members of the Jewish faith to recall memories of those dear to them.

Qualified organists provide music for cremation services and there are fine two-manual pipe organs used in the West and East Chapels, with an electronic organ in the Bedford Chapel.

The Chapel of Memory is set apart from the other chapels, situated at the eastern end of the cloister walk. No cremation services are held here. Instead it is a place for quiet prayer and meditation, sometimes used for memorial or dedicatory services. It is a place to visit at any time after a cremation service and many make regular visits to sit for a while in remembrance in the quiet of the Chapel with its flower-covered walls and its atmosphere of peace.

Although the purpose of the Chapel of Memory is to provide a place for private meditation at all times, it is mainly associated with anniversaries. Various forms of memorial are available, including the Books of Remembrance, commemoration vases, anniversary panels and feature flower arrangements.

On almost every wall at Golders Green, there are commemorative tablets. The earlier ones are set in the cloister walls, representative of a wide variety of designs.

The 12 acres of gardens contain many kinds of trees and shrubs. During spring, the thick carpet of crocus on the dispersal lawn attracts thousands of visitors from near and far. One of the many features in the gardens is a free standing bronze sculpture of a young girl being lifted heavenwards by a mysterious draped figure. The bronze 'Into The Silent Land', by Henry Pegram RA, was a gift to the crematorium in 1937 by the Royal Society of Arts.

Attached is a list of persons who have been cremated at Golders Green and many of the names will be familiar to everyone.



### \*Famous Names Remembered

Name	Cremination	Ashes	Memorial	Book (other)
Richard ADDINSELL	18.11.1977	2-P		
Larry ADLER	10.8.2000	1-L		
Edward ARMSTRONG	19.12.1945	1-L	West Mem. Crt. E5127 Tablet - south wall	
Sir James BAILLIE	17.5.1926		E2608 Cloisters Bay J - Tablet	
Elizabeth BERGNER (Bergner-Czinner)	15.5.1986	1-L	E48927 - West Cloister - oval Tablet (opp.bay O)	
William, LORD BIRKETT of Ulverston	13.2.1961	3-S		
Marc BOLAN	20.09.1977	E35979-Rose (FELD) West Statue Bed - 5	West Memorial Court 2 Wall Tablets (east side)	
Bernard BRESSLAW	17.6.1993		E46591 - East Central Bed - K	Shrine Vase
Lord George Alfred BROWN	10.6.1985	Removed by FD	E44558 - (family memorial) Almond Bed -A5	
The Hon. Mrs Victor BRUCE	30.5.1990	1-L		
Bella Leah BURGE	7.9.1962	Niche 1871	East Columbarium (1 <sup>st</sup> floor, east side)	
Richard (Dick) BURGE	1918	Niche 1871	East Columbarium (1 <sup>st</sup> floor, east side)	
Sir Philip BURNE-JONES	24.6.1926	Niche 3422	Ernest George Col. n/wall west ground flr.	
Sir Lewis CASSON	20.5.1969	St Paul's, Covent Gdn.,	Relinquished Cherry Tree - E29391	
Eric COATES	24.12.1957	1-J	West Cloisters Tablet (Bay D)	
Lionel, Lord COHEN of Walmer	11.5.1973	Removed by FD	Bay I2 - E Boundary wall E32813 Tablet	
HH Raj Rajendra The MAHARAJAH of COOCH-BAHAR	21.9.1911	To India	West Chapel, w/wall - Tablet	
William (Billy) COTTON	31.3.1969			
Dame Cicely COURTNEIDGE	1.5.1980		E38599 - Heather Bed F4	
(John) Andrew CRUIKSHANK	4.5.1988		E20096/45713 - Horder H13	
Edward Lord DALTON of Forest of Firth	15.2.1962	3-S		
Claude DAMPIER	4.1.1955	1-L		
Sir Charles DAVIS	4.1.1938	Crocus Lawn		
Sir Guy DAWBER	28.4.1938		West Memorial Crt - sth wall Tablet	
Sir James DEWAR	31.3.1923	Niche 3242	Ernest George Col. west wing	
Charles Montagu DOUGHTY	25.1.1926		Bay 1 - Cloisters E9915 Wall Tablet 2610	
Ray ELLINGTON	6.3.1985	Removed	Bay 8 - East Boundary wall E42248	
William FARROW	15.9.2003		E52828 - Cloister Walk -(C)	10 Sept.
Bud FLANAGAN	24.10.1968		West Memorial Crt. - E15255 Tablet 2665 n/wall	
Kathleen FERRIER	12.10.1953	Removed by FD	Eastern Border (Kathleen F Roses) Bed (next to D)	8 Oct. Vol.4
Sir Alexander FLEMING	16.3.1955	St Paul's Cathedral		3 Sept.
Sir George FRAMPTON	25.5.1928	Niche	Ernest George Col. east wing - ground flr	
Sigmund FREUD and wife Martha daughter Anna FREUD	26.9.1939 5.11.1951	Urn	Ernest George Columbarium west wing family memorials	Vol.3
Sir Forest FULTON	29.6.1925	Crocus Lawn	Bay J - Cloisters Tablet	
Sir William GARSTIN	12.1.1925		Bay J - Cloisters Tablet 2612	
Adeline GENEE-ISITT	1.5.1970	Niche 3555	Ernest George Columbarium - E31105 n/wall ground flr (near door)	
Sir Ernest GEORGE	11.2.1922	Crocus Lawn	Bay J - Cloisters Tablet	
Elinor GLYN	25.9.1943	1-K	Above door to the Jewish Shrine	
Lord GODDARD	2.6.1971	2-B		
Denis Ian GOODWIN	2.3.1975		Relinquished E34541- Southern Garden Bed R	
Charles GRAY	17.3.2000	3-N		
Hughie GREEN	3.5.1997		West Memorial Court - Tablet E48972	2 Feb
Arthur GREENWOOD	14.6.1954		E13995 Bay 17 - East Boundary Wall - 2849	
Lord Anthony GREENWOOD of Rossendale	16.4.1982		E41133 - Bay 29 - East Boundary Wall	
Joyce GRENFELL	4.12.1979	3-D		
Irene HANDL	8.12.1987	3-O		
Tommy HANDLEY	9.1.1948	Near Rhodo Bed		
Sir Cedric HARDWICKE	10.8.1964	3-U	E24846 - Tablet West Memorial Crt.	
Tubby HAYES	15.6.1973	1-L	E32817 - West Memorial Crt. (east wall)	
Arthur HENDERSON	24.10.1935	E29099 -Horder Garden H7 (beneath path)	Bay 32 - East Boundary Wall	
Ian HENDRY	? 3.1.1985		E40567 - Tablet Lily Pond Bay	
Gerard HOFFNUNG	2.10.1959		E20080 - Southern Garden - L (oak tree)	
Martitia HUNT	19.6.1969		E29535 -Ivor Novello Rose Bed	
George JACK	19.12.1931	Disp. Crocus Lawn		
Jessie JACOB	3.7.1933	Disp. Crocus Lawn	Tablet - Cloisters Bay V	
Max JAFFA	2.8.1991		E46141 - Anna Pavlova Bed -(H)	
Sid JAMES	29.4.1976	2-I		
Yootha JOYCE	2.9.1980	3-P		
Paul KOSSOFF	30.3.1976	1-I	Summer House Panel - E35046	
Evelyn LAYE o/w Evelyn LAWTON	12.2.1996		E 29521 - East Central Thorn Bed - 2	
Frank LAWTON	13.6.1969		E29521 East Central Thorn Bed - 2	
Sir Mervyn MacCARTNEY	1.11.1932	E3707	Ernest George Columbarium East archway wall	
Sir James MACKENZIE	29.1.1925	Niche 1269	East Columbarium, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor, door wall	



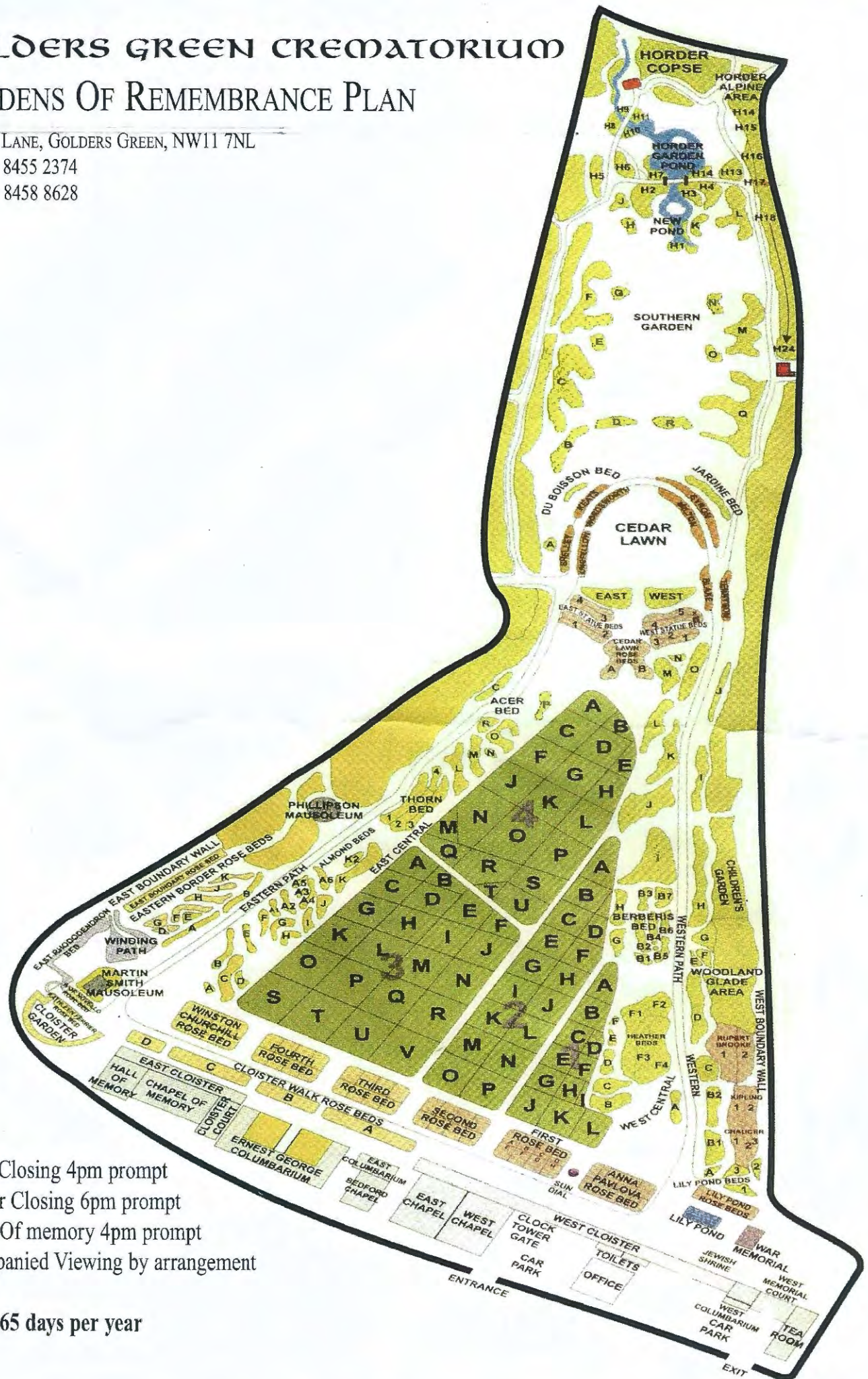
Name	Cremation	Ashes	Memorial	Book (other)
Karl MANNHEIM Julia MANNHEIM (wife)	1947 1955	Urn	East Columbarium - 1 <sup>st</sup> floor	
Simon. Lord MARKS of BROUGHTON	10.12.1964	Niche 3348	E25751 - Ernest George Columbarium. West wing, ground floor	
Billy MAYERL	31.3.1959	Cedar Lawn	E20678 - Cedar Lawn Rose Bed - B (relinquished)	25Mar-Vol. 1
Eric MERRIMAN	10.6.2003	3-M		
Sid MITRA	18.11.1925	Removed to India	Bay H - Cloisters Tablet	
Prince MONOLULU	22.2.1965	3-U		
Keith MOON	13.9.1978	3-P	E53082 - West Memorial Court (east wall) Marble Tablet	Blue Panel - Aug/Sept
Matt MONRO	07.02.1985	Removed		7 Feb.Vol.9
Constantine NABAKOFF	22.3.1927	Niche 972	West Columbarium Basement (centre of south end)	
Ivor NOVELLO	6.3.1951		E11861 - Lilac Tree (by Martin Smith Mausoleum) Chapel of Memory arch - bronze relief portrait	
Sean O'CASEY	22.9.1964	Disp. Cedar Lawn West		
Beryl ORDE	13.9.1966		Horde Garden	
Joe ORTON	18.8.1967	3-C		
Valentine Charles PARNELL	26.9.1972		E33152- Eastern Bed B (silver birch tree) E32885- Wall Tablet, West Memorial Court	
Anna PAVLOVA	29.1.1931	Niche	Ernest George Columbarium	
Sir Isaac PITMAN	1897 at Woking	Disp		
Henry POLLITT	9.7.1960	3-S	Tablet Cloister Garden - E29894 Chapel wall	
Sir Robert PRENDEGAST		Niche 1077	East Columbarium, 4 <sup>th</sup> floor, left wall	
H H The Rajah of PUDUKOTA The Ranee (his wife)	5.6.1928	Niche 1529	E27694 East Columbarium - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, right wall	
Dame Marie RAMBERT	17.6.1982		E17857 - Cloister Walk - B	
Sir William REYNOLDS-STEPHENS	1.2.1943	Disp. Crocus lawn	Wall Tablet - Cloisters (next to Jewish Shrine)	
Vice Admiral. Sir Charles ROYDE	8.1.1931	Niche 3905	Ernest George Columbarium - east wing, grd. floor	
Ronnie SCOTT	23.12.1996		E50741 - Wall Tablet, West Memorial Court	
Peter SELLERS	26.7.1980	E37893 - Rose Bush Cloister Garden	E37735 - Wall Tablet (East) Bay 8	
Sir Felix SEMON	5.3.1921	Niche 3234	Ernest George Columbarium (west wing, grd. floor)	
Sir Alfred SHARPE	13.2.1935	Disp. Crocus Lawn		
George Bernard SHAW	6.11.1950			Vol. 4
George. Lord SHEPHERD of Spalding	8.12.1954	Niche 2858	East Boundary Wall - Bay 26	
Ella SHIELDS	11.8.1952	Niche 3213	E13186 - Ernest George Columbarium (west wing) Wall Tablet - West Memorial Court (east wall)	
Emanuel SHINWELL	9.5.1986		2852 - Bay 20 East Boundary Wall	
Israel, Lord SIEFF	15.2.1972	Niche 3348	E31985 - Ernest George Columbarium (west wing, ground floor)	
Martin SMITH	11.11.1908	Martin Smith family Mausoleum		
(Reverend) Lord Donald SOPER	30.12.1998	3-R		
Cyril STAPLETON	1.3.1974	E33355 (relinquished)	E33417 - East Boundary Wall Tablet - Bay 30	
William STEKEL	29.6.1940	3-V		
Wilhelmina STITCH	?		Cloisters (above Clock Gate)	
Bram STOKER	24.4.1912	Niche 1424	East Columbarium, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor - far wall	
Randolph SUTTON	5.3.1969	4-A	E29419 - West Memorial Court (east wall)	
John SWINBURNE-HANHAM	21.1.1935		E14650 - Cloisters Bay P	
Sir Henry THOMPSON	21.4.1904	Niche 304	West Columbarium (centre wall) West Chapel - sculpture portrait	
Vesta TILLEY			Lilac Tree (relinquished) in Thorn Bed area	
Norman VAUGHAN	23.5.2002		E 52153 - Southern Garden Bed -L West Memorial Court - w/wall, over arch E52032	
Conrad VEIDT & Lily VEIDT	1893-1943 overseas	Niche 5712	E48971- Hall of Memory 1 <sup>st</sup> floor	
Charles VOYSEY	24.7.1912	Disp. Crocus Lawn		
Prince Hyder WAHID of MYSORE	12.3.1923	Disp. Crocus Lawn		
Nellie WALLACE	29.11.1948		West Memorial Court - East Wall	
Albert WHELAN	22.6.1961		E21472 - Cloister Garden Rose bush (relinquished)	
Sir Cuthbert WHITAKER	11.4.1950	Disp. Crocus Lawn		
Bernie WINTERS	8.5.1991	1-L	Tablet E44850 - West Memorial Court north wall above & left of arch	
Joseph WOODWARD	10.12.1945	Removed by FD	Tablet - Cloisters above clock gate	
Baroess WOOTTON	20.7.1988	1-L		



# GOLDERS GREEN CREMATORIUM

## GARDENS OF REMEMBRANCE PLAN

62 HOOP LANE, GOLDERS GREEN, NW11 7NL  
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Winter Closing 4pm prompt  
 Summer Closing 6pm prompt  
 Chapel Of memory 4pm prompt  
 Accompanied Viewing by arrangement

Open 365 days per year